



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION DAY PROGRAM

PHOENIX – United States Attorney for the District of Arizona Paul K. Charlton announced today that the Office of the U.S. Attorney will participate in the U.S. Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming November 7, 2006 general elections. Assistant United States Attorney Gary Restaino has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer, and in that capacity is responsible for overseeing the Election Day Program and the District's handling of complaints of election fraud and federal voting rights abuses in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters.

The goals of this Initiative are to increase the Department's ability to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls and to prosecute these offenses whenever and wherever they occur. The Program also is intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day. The Initiative recognizes the franchise as the cornerstone of American democracy, and the Department is committed to ensuring that those who are entitled to the franchise exercise it, while those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice.

United States Attorney Charlton stated, "Election fraud and voting rights abuses dilute the worth of votes honestly cast. They also corrupt the essence of our representative form of government. As crimes against both the individual and the government, they will be dealt with promptly and aggressively. Anyone who has information suggesting electoral corruption or voting rights abuses should make that information available immediately to my Office, the FBI, or the Civil Rights Division."

In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses on November 7, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, USA Charlton stated that AUSA Restaino and AUSA Robert Long will be on duty in this District while the polls are open. AUSA Restaino can be reached by the public on election day at (602) 514-7756, and AUSA Long can be reached at (602) 514-7624.

The FBI will also have an agent available to receive complaints of election fraud and other election abuses. In Arizona, Special Agent Karalee Smith can be reached by the public at (602) 279-5511.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can be made directly to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington at 1-800-253-3931 or 202-307-2767.

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